

UNSIGNALIZED INTERSECTION SAFETY STRATEGIES



Provide a Stop Bar (or Provide a Wider Stop Bar) on Minor Road Approaches

WHERE TO USE

Approaches to unsignalized intersections having traffic control devices that are not currently being recognized by some approaching motorists. Locations should be identified by patterns of crashes related to lack of driver recognition of the traffic control device (e.g., right-angle crashes related to stop sign violations).



Photo by: FHWA

This photo shows a wide stop bar installed on the approach to an intersection within a curve.

DETAILS

Providing visible stop bars on minor road approaches to unsignalized intersections can help direct the attention of drivers to the presence of the intersection. Where a stop bar is already in place, provision of a wider stop bar may be considered.

KEY TO SUCCESS

Identify appropriate intersection approaches that would benefit from its use. The strategy is expected to be especially effective when applied on approaches where conditions allow the stop bar to be seen by an approaching driver at a significant distance from the intersection. This strategy is appropriate for locations with a pattern of angle crashes associated with stop sign violations where approaching drivers may not realize that an intersection is present until it is too late to stop.



ISSUES

None identified.

TIME FRAME ●○○○

This strategy can be implemented quickly, typically in less than 3 months.

COSTS ●○○○

Costs for implementing this strategy are nominal. An agency's maintenance costs may increase.

EFFECTIVENESS

TRIED: One limited study has indicated that installing stop bars (or wider stop bars) on minor road approaches may reduce crashes by up to 19% and reduce right-angle crashes by up to 47%.

COMPATIBILITY

This strategy can be used in conjunction with most other strategies for improving safety at unsignalized intersections.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Signing in conformance with the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* should be provided.

For more details on this and other countermeasures: <http://safety.transportation.org>

For more information contact:

FHWA Office of Safety Design
E71, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
(202) 366-9064
<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>

FHWA Resource Center - Safety and Design Team
19900 Governor's Drive, Suite 301
Olympia Fields, IL 60461
(708) 283-3545
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter>



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Safe Roads for a Safer Future
Investment in roadway safety saves lives